
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 21 JUNE 2011

Face of Defense: Air Force Officer Seeks New Challenges

(American Forces Press Service)...1st Lt. Scott Ghiringhelli

While still an Air Force ROTC cadet at MIT, Castonia sought out different opportunities for his future. Beyond the natural career path as an engineer, he was slotted to be a pilot, and finally settled on a combat rescue officer position. He also attended the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center here as part of the Air Force's new Language Enabled Airman Program, despite having no prior language proficiency.

"Adopt" a foreign soldier from Lackland AFB

(WOAI.com)...Melissa Garcia

Looking for a way to help our nation? How about "adopting" a soldier from another country. Over 1,000 international military students are currently learning English at the Defense Language Institute (DLI) at Lackland Air Force Base. Faustin Mulume and Chariya Thang are both Lieutenants in the Army... but not the U.S. Army. Faustin is from the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Chariya is from Cambodia. They're among 12-hundred foreign students from cadets to generals, studying English at DLI. The soldiers come from 90 different countries all around the world.

Perspectives: Think 'Glocal'

(Diverse Education)...Karen Jenkins

Increasingly, educators are forced to convince legislatures that sending students abroad to gain international exposure is in the economic interest of the United States. The economic realities should speak for themselves. Jobs today are created in a global marketplace. Our students need to understand the interconnectedness of the forces that shape and influence commercial markets here and abroad. Then they need to be prepared and eager to step into the global marketplace armed with foreign language skills and cross-cultural understanding.

It's much easier getting shot at than gaining trust..we're trying to correct 30yrs of mayhem with words, not weapons

(The Sun)...Virginia Wheeler

The 28-year-old Royal Scots Dragoon Guardsman looks like a Second World War flying ace and uses his charm and humour to train the Afghans in fighting and organisational techniques. Capt Woodhams spends hours talking to white-bearded ANA company commander Abdul Rahman, known as Mili Baba (Father Christmas) in local language Dari, and even started smoking a pipe so the Afghan soldiers would respect him. "It tastes disgusting, I hate it," he said. "The British are very good at understanding different cultures. And as the ANA and ANP will run Afghanistan when we leave, we have to engage with them and the Taliban - like we did with the IRA."

Howard Students Secure Boren Fellowships

(Howard University News Room)...Sholnn Freeman

Howard University students Ronya Foy and Aamira Chaney have received the prestigious 2011 David L. Boren fellowships to study language and culture in Africa. The announcement increases the number of honors recently garnered by Howard students in the field of international studies. Among the recipients, three members of the Class of 2011 – Antonino Eugene Lyons II, Jessica A. Cooper and Manjot Kaur Jassal – are recipients of the Fulbright Scholarship and will spend next year in Brazil and India respectively. Nicole Baden, a senior audio production major, was awarded a 2011 Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Fellowship; and Jarondakie Patrick, a junior in journalism, won a Scripps Howard Foundation scholarship to study in Japan.

[PREVIOUS NEWS](#)

[Ackuna Introduces Its New Free Website Translation Button for Website Owners](#)

(San Francisco Chronicle, PRWeb)

Ackuna, the internet's first cloud translation tool developed by Translation Services USA, released its free website translation button to assist in globalizing the World Wide Web.

[430 Teachers Spend Summer Pursuing Learning on 7 Continents with \\$1.7M in Fund for Teaching Grants](#)

(San Francisco Chronicle, PRWeb)

430 preK-12 educators will experience summertime of immersion in a foreign language and culture thanks to fellowships from Fund for Teachers.

[New Assistant Commandant takes command of the 517th Training Group Foreign Language Capabilities of the Defense Department](#)

(DLIFLC website, 1stLT Scott Ghiringhelli)

Lt. Col Laura Ryan assumed command of the 517th Training Group and the responsibilities of the assistant commandant, Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center on June 9, 2011.

[The Humanities: Fundamental but Utilitarian](#)

(Huffington Post, David Skorton)

Skorton writes about a briefing he was privileged to moderate last month before 60 Congressional Staffers and academia. The briefing was entitled, "Addressing National Security and Other Global Challenges through Cultural Understanding." The aim was to better understand why support for the humanities is a wise investment in U.S. national security.

["Adopt" a foreign soldier from Lackland AFB](#)

(WOAI News 4, Melissa Garcia)

Over 1,000 foreign military students are learning English at the Defense Language Institute English Learning Center at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. A program called AMIGO (American Members of International Goodwill to Others) needs volunteer sponsors to "adopt" these students and open their homes and lives to them.

[Teaching English as a Foreign Language at WOU](#)

(YouTube, Digital Productions Services at WOU)

Coming in the fall of 2011 at Western Oregon University (WOU) is a certificate in Teaching English as a Foreign Language. See this two minute video explaining what it takes for a native speaker to teach English well.

[Akaka Questions Panetta About Foreign Language Capabilities of the Defense Department](#)

(YouTube)

Senator Akaka poses a question to Leon Panetta about his plans to increase the Defense Department's foreign language speaking abilities. The exchange took place during Panetta's confirmation hearing to succeed Robert Gates as the U.S. Secretary of Defense. Akaka is a senior member of the Armed Services Committee.

[Aimless in High School, War Veteran Finds a New Mission](#)

(Laguna Beach Independent) ...Jennifer Erickson

While deployed to Iraq, Staight was struck by the confusion that reigned in determining who and where the enemy was, with the conflicting reports about whether various groups were friends or foes at any given moment. And he immediately saw how communications could be improved if soldiers knew the local language and culture. Staight devised another difficult task, to begin teaching himself Arabic, learning useful phrases. On his second tour in 2005 to patrol and guard the government center in Ramadi, the capital of Anbar province, he became the platoon linguist, though his Arabic skills were still rudimentary. He saw the benefit of directly communicating with Iraqis to help improve their lives.

Turning The iPad Into A Weapon

(Strategy Page)

For use in the combat zone, troops usually put one of the many protective covers on their smart phone, Touch, or iPad and, so far, these devices have held up well under battlefield conditions. Meanwhile, some of the software written for earlier iPods, is now available for the Touch and iPhone. This includes the VCommunicator Mobile software and libraries. This system translates English phrases into many foreign languages. Each language takes up four gigabytes per language, so they easily fit on the Touch. The software displays graphics, showing either the phrase in Arabic, or a video of a soldier making the appropriate hand gesture (there are a lot of those in Arabic), and this looks great on the Touch. There are collections of phrases for specific situations, like checkpoint, raid or patrol.

School districts are scrambling to pare budgets in response to the proposed billion-dollar cut in state funding

(Pittsburgh Post-Gazette)...Mary Niederberger

There will be larger class sizes and fewer middle and elementary school foreign language classes, high school business and consumer science courses and elementary music programs throughout the region if the preliminary budgets approved by school boards in the wake of proposed state budget cuts become final.

Dual-language schools lure students, parents back to LA Unified

(Southern California Public Radio)...Adolfo Guzman-Lopez

For years, middle- and upper-middle-class parents in parts of Los Angeles Unified have sent their children to private schools, charter schools and schools outside the district. However, a nascent dual-language program is attracting some of them back to neighborhood schools. District administrators voted Tuesday to protect hundreds of dual-language teachers from being let go in the hope that the trickle of returning parents will develop into a stream.

Breaking down the language barrier

(Mooreville Tribune)...Megan Sprague

Angela Sandler is living out her dream of teaching by sharing what she knows best -- her native tongue. Originally from Peru, Sandler has lived in Mooreville for eight years, working much of that time as a real estate agent. That's how she first discovered a need in the Lake Norman area for more bilingual residents. "I was able to be in the middle, translating for both parties and help them to reach a deal. Because of that experience, I wanted to offer a unique opportunity to Lake Norman and give Spanish instruction to kids, adults and businesses." Sandler left the real estate world to start Learn Spanish NC, a language tutoring business that offers private and group classes to all ages. She is certified with the American Tutoring Association and says she is excited to "share her passion" with local residents.

Air Force lieutenant looks before he LEAPs

(AF.mil)...1st Lt. Scott Ghiringhelli

After completing his reserve officers' training and earning a Bachelor and Master of Science in aerospace engineering at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1st Lt. Ryan Castonia could well have gone on to a great career as an engineer in the Air Force. That would have been a success story by anyone's standards, but he was not content to stop there. Beyond the natural career path as an engineer, he was slotted to be a pilot, and finally settled on a combat rescue officer, or CRO, position. He also managed to find his way to the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center as part of the Air Force's new Language Enabled Airman Program, or LEAP, despite having no prior language proficiency. He is among the first five Air Force lieutenants to come to DLIFLC and participate in LEAP. Lieutenant Castonia will graduate from the DLIFLC's Arabic-language program in July.